

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-17, 10, 21-28, 30-38 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,598,011 B1 (hereinafter, "Howards Koritzinsky") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,373 B2 (hereinafter, "Sitka"). Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14, 17, 19, 21-28 and 30-38 are allowable. Applicant submits the following in traversal.

Rejection of Claims 15-16 under §103(a) over Howards Koritzinsky in view of Sitka

Applicant submits herewith amended claims 15 and 16 which now include the subject matter in allowable claims 1, 5 and 14, especially claim 14. Therefore, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits that claim 15 is patentable because Howards Koritzinsky and Sitka fail to disclose the following in combination with other elements of claim 15:

receiving medical image data sets stored in medical image data storage means installed in a medical facility from the medical image data storage means, each of the medical image data sets including accompanying information;

determining a storage expiration period of each of the medical image data sets based on the accompanying information.

We would argue that claim 16 is patentable because Howards Koritzinsky and Sitka fail to disclose the following in combination with other elements of claim 16:

receiving medical image data sets from medical image data storage means, each of the medical image data sets including accompanying information;

determining a storage expiration period of each of the medical image data sets based on the accompanying information

For at least the above reasons, claims 15 and 16 are patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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